

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): NAKAMOTO, et al.

Filed: March 8, 2002

For: PRODUCTION APPARATUS FOR POLYBUTYLENE  
TEREPHTHALATE



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 8, 2002

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a List, on a form substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, of documents cited in connection with at least one of application Serial No. 09/642,587, filed August 22, 2000, and application Serial No. 09/790,539, filed February 23, 2001.

Since the listed documents were cited in connection with prior applications of the above-identified application being relied upon under 35 USC 120 in the above-identified application, copies of the listed documents are not enclosed. See 37 CFR 1.98(d).

To the extent that the listed documents are not in English, it is respectfully submitted that the following constitutes the necessary concise explanation of the relevance of these documents, as required under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

As related to the undersigned by foreign counsel representing Applicants, Japanese Patent Document No. 52-51495 discloses a continuous process using an esterifying step in

which 1,4-butanediol is reacted with a solution containing terephthalic acid and bis (hydroxybutyl) terephthalate.

As related to the undersigned by foreign counsel for Applicants, Japanese Patent Document No. 51-81897 discloses a process that a volatile component obtained from a polymerization process having specific conditions is returned without removing an impurity.

In addition, the following comments in connection with U.S. Patent No. 4,680,376 are provided, related to the undersigned by foreign counsel for Applicants. In the process disclosed in this U.S. patent, a large amount of 1,4-butanediol is contained in volatile components from a prepolymerization step and a final polymerization step. For that reason, it is necessary to extract 1,4-butanediol from the volatile components and to return 1,4-butanediol. To the contrary, according to the process of the present invention the amount of 1,4-butanediol contained in volatile components from the prepolymerization step and the final polymerization step is very low. Thus, neither extract nor return of 1,4-butanediol is necessary.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-identified application. Accordingly, requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.


In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the listed documents. Accordingly, consideration of the listed

documents, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 500.38891VV2) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William I. Solomon", is written over a horizontal line.

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WIS/jla  
Enclosure

<b>Form PTO-1449</b>  <b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> <b>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <b>BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)	<b>ATTY. DKT. NO.</b> 500.38891VV2	<b>SERIAL NO.</b>
	<b>APPLICANT</b> NAKAMOTO, et al.	
	<b>FILING DATE</b> March 8, 2002	<b>GROUP</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date
AA	4,680,376	7-14-87	Heinze, et al.			
AB						
AC						
AD						
AE						
AF						
AG						
AH						
AI						
AJ						
AK						
AL						

J1050 U.S. PTO  
 10/092565  
 03/08/02

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
AM	52-51495	4-25-77	Japan				
AN	51-81897	7-17-76	Japan				
AO							
AP							
AQ							
AR							
AS							
AT							

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

AU	
AV	
AW	
AX	
AY	
AZ	
Examiner	Date Considered